

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed 3/3/03 (Paper No. 8). Claims 2-4 and 6-10 have been amended above. Claims 1 and 12 have been deleted above without prejudice. Claims 2-11 are now pending in this application.

The Examiner has objected to Claim 3. Claim 3 has been amended to overcome the Examiner's objection. In particular, it is noted that Claim 3 has been amended to delete the term "preferentially". Accordingly, the deletion of this term is not a narrowing amendment made for patentability reasons.

Claim 12 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, Second paragraph. Claim 12 has been deleted without prejudice.

Claims 1-2, and 6-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Kawamoto et al., and have also been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Ambrosy et al. and Mitomi et al. Claim 1 has been deleted above without prejudice.

Claims 3-5 have been indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including the features of the base claim. Claims 3 and 4 have been so rewritten. Accordingly, claims 3-5 should now be in condition ready for allowance. It is further noted that amendment of Claims 3 and 4 to include features of the base claim (claim 1 now deleted) is by definition not a narrowing amendment.

Claims 2 and 6-11 are now dependent on Claim 3. Accordingly, all the claims pending in this application are in condition ready for allowance.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly

novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

A check in the amount of \$110.00 is enclosed for a one month extension of time and additional claim fees. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,

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6/18/03
Date

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: 6/18/03

Signature: Shannon Murphy
Person Making Deposit